



**MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING  
WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020**

**PRESENT**

<b>Sandra MacLennan, Chair (SM)</b>	<b>David Parker, Vice Chair (DP)</b>
<b>John Bremner, Treasurer (JB)</b>	<b>Councillor Lorna Creswell (LC)</b>
<b>Angela Sutherland (AS)</b>	<b>David Edgar (DE)</b>
<b>Debbie Herron (DH)</b>	<b>Jo Smithson (JS)</b>
<b>Mike Scott (MS)</b>	<b>Tina Coffey, Minutes (TC)</b>

**APOLOGIES**

<b>Brian McDonald (BM)</b>	
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<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1. Welcome from Chair	Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.	
2. Minutes from 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	The minutes from the last meeting had been circulated, there being no amendments they were proposed by John and seconded by Debbie.	
3. Matters arising	Item 4 – Chair emailed Andy and awaiting a reply regarding the Nimrod structure – ongoing Item 4 – Debbie requested information about the voting for the YouChoose4 and informed voting is kept confidential and no information would be released Item 7 – Walkers are Welcome fees paid by FACT who had sufficient funds remaining from FAF money already given towards the walking festival Item 12 – VE day celebrations on 8 <sup>th</sup> May, service at the War Memorial, parade by the Army and veterans back to the Royal British Legion followed by a Beat Retreat and ceilidh at night, celebrations throughout the day at the Royal British Legion building	SM

	Item 14 – North Room booking was cancelled for February	
4. Treasurers Report	The balance on the account stands at £2,652.62.	
5. Correspondence	<p>Secretary read out a list of emails forwarded to the FAF membership which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job opportunity – Moray Reach Out</li> <li>• E-bulletin – tsiMORAY</li> <li>• Non-Executive Director opportunities with Scotland’s Towns Partnership</li> <li>• E-bulletin - tsiMORAY</li> <li>• E-bulletin – tsiMORAY (29/01/2020)</li> <li>• Scotland’s Towns Partnership Funding Finder January 2020</li> <li>• Aberdeenshire &amp; Moray Timetable Consultation – buses</li> <li>• E-bulletin – tsiMORAY</li> <li>• Scotland’s Towns &amp; Improvement District Bulletins Jan – Feb 2020</li> <li>• E-bulletin – tsiMORAY February 2020</li> <li>• E-bulletin – tsiMORAY – Join the Dots</li> <li>• Grass cutting link to Moray Council</li> <li>• E-bulletin – tsiMORAY</li> <li>• FACT – Forres Town Hall Project Officer vacancy</li> <li>• Scotland’s Towns Partnership – February Funding Finder</li> </ul>	
6. FACT	<p>Debbie informed those present of the following:            Community Asset Transfer (CAT) – Scottish Land Fund (SLF) application was successful – next stage paperwork goes between Moray Council, FACT’s solicitors and SLF looking at possibly signing paperwork at the end of April 2020.            Vacancy for a p/t Project Officer, 30 hr/wk, closing date 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, details available on the website            Money from Scottish Community Landfill Fund being used to varnish the floor in the main hall, work starts this week and will take a week to complete.            Temporary repairs being undertaken until a full refurbishment can take place. Roof has been repaired, fire lights system replaced and floor in the main hall has been repaired – received great support from all companies during the works.            Spirit of Community event, meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 – discussion about purpose of event and what needs to be done, scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> April although postponed to June. SEDC will design and print reports. Proposal for a paid person to take the Spirit of Community forward, agreed to see what dates are available, Debbie to check diary for potential event dates and email round, also aiming to sit down with Jo for further discussions.            Bookings up 100.4% and different groups are using the hall.</p>	DH DH/JS

	<p>Week worth of celebrations in process of being planned regarding taking over the town hall.</p> <p>Leancoil – FACT and tsiMORAY worked together to help research community impact, the event was held on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 120 members of public plus 19 people from various groups attended to support on the night. Also engaged with Forres Academy pupils, older persons and online survey. Generally very supportive of the idea of Leancoil being taken over by the community, some concerns around financial sustainability, location, compatibility between groups. Constructive and the majority of feedback was positive. FACT &amp; tsiMORAY produced a joint report for the Leancoil Group to review and use, in addition have been asked to do market research with Erskine veterans and regular serving members Moray wide including Inverness and Aberdeenshire.</p> <p>Skate Park Group – achieved charitable status, work done through the lottery from years ago and Debbie will share reports with Sean.</p> <p>Older Persons Project – ongoing, report written to secure further funding.</p> <p>Forres On-line – engaging with the wider community.</p> <p>Cyber Essentials Creditation has been achieved.</p> <p>Moray Speyside Tourism transition to Visit Moray Speyside on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 – Laurie Piper appointed as their Operations Manager.</p> <p>Community meal on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 was well attended.</p> <p>Big Lunch on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – stalls for groups available, please contact FACT at <a href="mailto:info@forresarea.org.uk">info@forresarea.org.uk</a></p> <p>Coronavirus – will formulate a process for the town hall and this will be passed on.</p> <p>Resource list – looking at what resources are in the area and what could be shared. Questionnaires sent out, people thought it was a good idea although there were practicalities over lending out items. In principal good idea although in practice no capacity, looking towards helping groups to income generate in other ways.</p> <p>Spring clean date to be set.</p> <p>Portable defibrillator to be kept at the town hall for groups to use on trips, Debbie and Lorna to speak</p> <p>Area to the back of the town hall has been cleared by the Community Pay Back persons and it will be made into a sitting out area.</p>	<p>DH</p> <p>DH/LC</p>
<p>7. Forres Area A96 Community Group</p>	<p>David E informed the group the A96 Group have not met for a year, currently awaiting a report from Birnam and area regarding the A9 co-creative process, this report has yet to be published. The intention is to ask the A96 group if they would like one more meeting and then decide how to proceed. David E proposed to remove this item from the agenda and keep FAF updated with any further news, Lorna seconded and all were in agreement. Secretary is to remove</p>	

	from the agenda.	TC
8. Planning for Real	No meeting has taken place since the last FAF meeting.	
9. Moray Towns Partnership	No meeting has taken place since the last FAF meeting.	
10. Moray Area Forum	No meeting has taken place since the last FAF meeting.	
11. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TC – St Johns Church coffee morning in the town hall on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020 from 10am to midday</li> <li>• DH – pop up coffee morning at the town hall on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020, volunteers required together with raffle prizes and home-bakes. Easter activity - Cameron project, 26<sup>th</sup> March reminiscence session and Forres On-line sessions weekly and gentle seated exercise class each Tuesday morning</li> <li>• AS – no transport meeting, service 314 bus route is in operation and not an electric bus but a dial-a-bus, currently 8 buses up to Forbeshill at different times during the day</li> <li>• DP – Men’s Shed on 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April coffee and soup event at St Leonard’s church from 10am to 2pm. Forres Community Council meet on 26<sup>th</sup> March</li> <li>• JS – Forres Green Volunteer hotlist went live on the tsiMORAY website, keen to develop a volunteer list for Forres, Jo is keen to have volunteering ideas. Debbie stated FACT already have a volunteer list Jo and Debbie will meet to discuss and take forward There is a gentleman who would like to get play equipment for a playpark at Forbeshill, this is gathering interest and is to be taken forward. tsiMORAY conference on 26<sup>th</sup> March, Join the Dots more information at <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/join-the-dots-2020-maximising-morays-potential-registration-94371336207?aff=ebdshpfprimarybucket">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/join-the-dots-2020-maximising-morays-potential-registration-94371336207?aff=ebdshpfprimarybucket</a></li> </ul>	DH/JS
12. Councillors	<p>Councillor Creswell updated those present on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s Plan is out for consultation</li> <li>• Budget on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020</li> <li>• Leancoil have commissioned Community Enterprise to undertake surveying with stakeholders</li> <li>• Mortuary meeting in Elgin</li> <li>• Osprey SCIO now known as Forres Osprey Bus</li> <li>• Youth Café has had more interest</li> <li>• Bowling group – pilot for 6 weeks, so popular able to borrow equipment and now continue to the end of May due to Auchernack funding</li> <li>• Kim Masson – in touch with timetable for buses and Lorna fed back</li> <li>• Pay Back personnel collecting white goods</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fairtrade fortnight</li> <li>• Query re an obstacle course being available to rent</li> <li>• Sarah McGhee moved and Ruth Douglas is leaving soon – both Army posts</li> <li>• Army Engineers have started some community project works</li> <li>• Policies and Resources – museum up for debate next week</li> <li>• Ian Todd retired and unsure of the replacement</li> <li>• Met with Moray Council’s Human Resources and Payroll departments</li> <li>• Blair’s Loch AGM to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> March</li> </ul> <p>Thanks to Lorna for all her work within the community.</p>	
13. AOB	<p>Banner – Chair and Secretary to look at a design.</p> <p>Money for Moray – A Fairer Moray for all application in by 3<sup>rd</sup> April criteria accessibility read out. Three strands, £50k to East and West Moray and the Associated Schools Group, also approached the Adam Foundation for extra money for schools. West Moray meeting to take place on 16<sup>th</sup> May in the town hall. Training sessions available to those who apply.</p> <p>19<sup>th</sup> March – Forres museum will hold a party to celebrate its years of being opening</p> <p>14<sup>th</sup> April – in the town hall in Elgin, Participatory Budgeting meeting with invites to be sent out.</p> <p>Men’s Shed moved out of Moray Waste Busters to Mundole and grants have been submitted towards alterations.</p> <p>Debbie asked if FAF’s address was to remain at the Hub, proposal was to change postal address to FACT at the town hall, those present agreed. Secretary to change the address from the Hub to the town hall.</p> <p>Those present agreed to postpone the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> April, Secretary to inform FACT of cancellation of room venue.</p>	<p>SM/TC</p> <p>TC</p> <p>TC</p>
14. Date of Next Meeting	<p>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020, 7pm in the North Rooms, Forres TH.</p>	